



NEWS



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KEEP YOUR COOL DURING THE HOT SUMMER DRIVING MONTHS

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – For many, summertime is vacation time. During the summer months, not only does the temperature begin to climb, vehicle travel increases as well.

“We want you to have a safe and healthy summer, and enjoy the California sunshine on your next road trip,” said California Highway Patrol (CHP) Commissioner Joe Farrow. “Safety should never take a backseat; buckle up, designate a non-drinking driver, adhere to the speed limit and follow a few simple suggestions.”

Due to the high temperatures during the summer months, before traveling, have your vehicle thoroughly checked, with special attention given to these items:

- **Cooling System.** Examine all belts and hoses for cracks or leaks, replacing any you may have doubts about. Don't forget tools and water to accomplish a change if necessary. Don't overlook the radiator, which should be properly filled with coolant, and while driving, keep a close eye on the temperature gauge; shutting off the air conditioner if the engine heat creeps too high.
- **Tires.** Make sure all of the vehicle's tires have plenty of tread and are properly inflated. Don't forget about the spare and make sure your jack and tire changing tools are in good condition. Extreme heat can take its toll, not only on worn or old tires, but new ones as well.
- **Electrical system.** Check all lighting equipment, making sure it is in good operating condition. Take a close look at the battery. Ensure the cables are tight and appropriate fluids are filled to the proper level. Don't forget your windshield wipers in case you get caught in a sudden storm.

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Some additional rules to follow before heading off on your summer road trip in the heat:

- Always let someone know where you're going and when you expect to return.
- Carry a survival kit with extra water, concentrated food, cell phone and charger, sunscreen, matches, collapsible shovel, blankets, good jack, tools and basic extra parts for your car (e.g. hoses, fan belts, extra gas) and maps of your area.
- Never leave children, frail elderly or pets in the vehicle unattended, even if you think you'll only be a minute. Summer heat can quickly create deadly conditions inside a vehicle.

"We just want to remind everyone that as a driver, you are responsible for the safety of your passengers while the vehicle is running and when it is parked," said Commissioner Farrow.

Last year in California, between June 1 and August 31, there were 783 people killed and more than 58,000 people injured in collisions. "We want everyone to enjoy the summer, but at the same time, please be very careful when driving," added Commissioner Farrow.

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